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# Ex-General Tells of Nicaragua Role

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DALLAS, Aug. 9 — A retired United States Army general who is active in assisting and advising Nicaraguan rebels said today that he was in contact with a member of the National Security Council in the White House to keep him informed of his work, including fund raising for the rebels.

Administration officials and members of Congress have said in recent days that a National Security Council staff member is the United States official primarily responsible for coordinating contacts with the rebels.

In an interview, the retired general, John K. Singlaub, said he called the National Security Council official from time to time. The topics, he said, have included the general's work with Adolfo Calero, political head of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, the largest rebel group.

Recounting such a call, he said he had told the council official: "This is what Adolfo wants me to do, and I'm just telling you about it. If you think I'm doing something dumb, send me a signal."

## Sources of Rebels' Arms

Asked how the rebels had received weapons after Congress cut off United States shipments last year, General Singlaub said the anti-Sandinista forces had raised money for arms from Latin American governments and from

private corporations and individuals in Western Europe.

"Those funds are deposited in banks overseas, from which they get letters of credit to buy on the international arms market the weapons that they need," General Singlaub said in the interview.

General Singlaub was relieved of his post as chief of staff of United States forces in South Korea by President Carter in 1977 after he publicly disagreed with the President's tentative decision to withdraw American ground forces from South Korea. The withdrawal decision was later reversed.

After being transferred to another position, General Singlaub criticized President Carter again, this time for deciding not to produce a neutron bomb, and was asked to resign from the military.

General Singlaub, 64 years old, fought in three wars, was wounded in two and was decorated in all three. He is now president of the World Anti-Communist League and the United States Council for World Freedom, an anti-Communist group based in Phoenix.

## Council's Fund Raising

General Singlaub said the Council for World Freedom concentrated its own fund-raising efforts for the Nicaraguan rebels on finding money for medicine and other humanitarian aid.

He said he made speaking tours in the United States to raise money for the Nicaraguan rebels and anti-Communist guerrilla groups in other countries.

He said he also had contacts with representatives of foreign companies in the United States that might be interested in contributing funds.

"I think the European money is coming from corporations that had their properties in Nicaragua expropriated or nationalized or which withdrew," the general said. "I think they have made some contributions. I don't know whether the corporations as an entity have done it or whether the officers of corporations have contributed. In this country, when I go to people, it's the individuals that make the contribution rather than any corporation."

In addition, he said, an American "could write a check and send it to one of these overseas accounts."

"I don't think there's any significant amount of money being contributed by Americans to this," he said. "I have sort of hinted in questions to the freedom fighters about whether there is someone who has contributed in the past that I ought to approach, and they have not wanted to say."

## Announces September Meeting

General Singlaub came to Dallas to announce at a news conference that the World Anti-Communist League will hold its international meeting here in September, with representatives attending from about 100 countries. He arrived from Honduras and Guatemala, where he had been visiting with rebel leaders and troops.

The general acknowledged that he kept a member of the National Security Council informed of his activities in support of the Nicaraguan rebels, but he said he had no such contacts with the Defense Department, the State Department or the Central Intelligence Agency.

"As far as the freedom fighters in Nicaragua are concerned," he said, "I don't go near the Pentagon anymore."

"I have good friends there that I used to talk to on the situation around the world," he added, but because of Congressional restrictions on American help to the rebels, "I don't go see those friends anymore, or friends at the White House or State Department."

General Singlaub said he was motivated to help the Nicaraguan rebels and other anti-Communist guerrilla groups around the world because of his conviction that "the United States has a rather miserable record of abandoning its friends."

He said the Council for World Freedom was as interested in offering moral support to the resistance groups as in providing material support.

"It appears to be particularly important because the Communist side has been so successful in its disinformation program in discrediting these resistance movements," he said.